

I. Aaron - The Imperfect High Priest

- A. **Waiting (v1)** tests patience & faith. *Often take matters into own hands. FIX! Solve. Pray?*
- B. **Replace God** for something more **predictable, manageable, tangible, comforting, familiar and comprehensible**. *(When we go back to creature comforts/habits/sins).*
- C. **Gave up on God and Gave in the people what they wanted.**
- D. **God's Response to sin:** *(What is this? Divine Fit-Pitching?)*
 - 1. **YOUR people whom YOU brought out.** *I'm disowning them. Don't belong to me. This is the result of our unrepentant sin, unbelief, betrayal and rebellion: that we would not be counted among the people of God, and be separated from Him forever*
 - 2. **Corrupt.** Turned aside **quickly. Idolaters(envy). Stiff-necked** people and stubborn.
 - 3. His **wrath burns hot** against sin. That's never changed. Hates sin. **What it is/does.**
- E. **Aaron's Response to sin:**
 - 1. **Deflects** (v22). It was the people! They're fault. You know them! Pressure.
 - 2. **Denies** (v4, 24) I just threw the stuff in the fire! This popped out!
 - 3. **Defends** (v23) How were we supposed to know if you were ok?
 - 4. **Downplays** (v1, 24) They asked for multiple, I'm just going to give them one.
 - 5. **Didn't Lead** the people (25) They had broken loose. **Shepherd terminology.**

ILLUSTRATION: Broken Loose. Shepherd terminology. Dangerous to themselves and the others. Chain reaction of chaos and death. Damage to others.

APPLICATION: Jesus is our Perfect High Priest - Prays, Leads, Obeyed on our behalf.

II. Moses - The Imperfect Mediator

- A. **Responds in a rash way. (V19-20)** tablets and gold powder.
- B. **Impulsive?** Temper? (Remember the Egyptian?)
- C. **Prophet. "You have sinned a great sin."** (v30). Doesn't downplay or deny the sin.
- D. **Exalts the need for the mercy of God.**
 - 1. **Interceding** (v30) I will go up to the LORD. This is risky! (V11) implored!
 - 2. **Atonement** (v30) **"Perhaps..."**
 - 3. **Forgiveness** (32) **"If"** It's gotta be you LORD! No other way. Sinned against you.
 - 4. **Brotherhood** (33) with the people. Taking their same punishment. Substitute?
 - 5. **Acts on Faith/Fact (v11-14)** Took God at His Word. *"YOUR people; YOU brought"*
- E. **Leads the people.**
- F. **Executes Gods justice** on the sins of the people. Death.

ILLUSTRATION: "Durin's Bane." Balrog. Evil Lava Monster. Death of King and all citizens. Our sin is **Jesus's Bane**. Caused his distress, death and destruction and people.

APPLICATION: Jesus is our Perfect Mediator - made atonement and intercedes for us.

- 1. **"Great Sin"** - The Gospel of Grace doesn't cause us to downplay sin, but to hate it for what it is. An offense against God, harm to ourselves and others, and **Jesus's Bain**.
- 2. **"Perhaps..."** (v30) **"If"** (v32) - No perhaps or if with Jesus. It's a definite.
- 3. **"Relented from disaster..."** Didn't hold back from Jesus on the Cross. Poured it out.
- 4. **"Jesus was blotted out, so we never would be"** -

CONCLUSION: 1. "Don't make gold images and worship them and call the God/YHWH."

But I'm not sure how many of us are doing that. So what are we doing or capable of doing?

2. We are our own idols. Our own gods. Desires. Works. Convictions. Pride. Righteousness.

3. Worship God for Who He is and reveals Himself to be, not who we want Him to be or make Him out to be. Holy. Just. Big. Mighty. AND good, loving, forgiving, gracious, merciful.

4. Your Gold Calves? Sacred Cows? Trusting in for comfort/peace/strength, rather than God.

5. Jesus is the Perfect High Priest and Perfect Mediator who has made atonement for our sins and intercedes for us before God. He took our place and our sin. **Better Aaron/Moses.**

SACRED COWS/GOLDEN CALVES:

A "sacred cow" is an idea, organization, or custom that is considered immune from criticism, questioning, or change, often due to excessive or unquestioned respect.

Figurative meaning: In modern English, it's a figure of speech used for something that is untouchable, even if it's no longer effective or logical.

In a church setting, a "sacred cow" refers to a tradition, program, person, or object that is treated as being beyond question or change, even if it is no longer effective or relevant. These are often matters of human preference that have become entrenched over time, rather than core theological beliefs.

Music, Worship Liturgy, Clothes, Pastors/Leaders, Programs, Committees, Families, Long-Timers, Givers, Influencers/Personalities, etc.

Personal Sacred Cows/Idols:

- My Family's way. Parenting style. Holiday traditions.

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